



ROCKY MOUNTAIN COORDINATING GROUP
Bureau of Indian Affairs (Southwest, Rocky Mountain and Great Plains Regions)
Bureau of Land Management (Colorado and Wyoming)
Fish and Wildlife Service (Mountain/Prairie Region)
Forest Service (Rocky Mountain Region)
National Park Service (Intermountain and Midwest Regions)
State Agencies in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas

Conference Call
August 14, 2008

Members present:

<i>David Carter</i>	<i>Ken Kerr</i>
<i>Joe Lowe</i>	<i>Tom Corbin</i>
<i>Jeff Fedrizzi</i>	<i>Ray Weidenhaft</i>
<i>Don Westover</i>	<i>Bill Ott</i>
<i>Mike Davin</i>	

Guests:

Todd Richardson

Dave Carter, Chairman, referencing last weeks (August 7) RMCG conference call, realized that there may not have been a quorum in regards to the decision of whether or not to add Lowe's Type 2 Team to the area rotation. After roll call it was determined that the six members present last week for the discussion on Type 2 Team rotations (two members had to leave early) did not make a quorum and that any decision made could not be implemented.

Type 2 Team Rotations

Dave Carter spoke briefly about the differing views he heard from others he called regarding the issue. While some wanted to change the rotation now, others object to changing the rotation mid-season; however, most agree that they would like to see Lowe's team be mobilized at least once this year to promote cohesion and moral, and to ensure currency issues are addressed.

On last weeks call the group discussed the fact that Lowe's team was the only Type 2 Team available from the RMA and should be made available for an assignment if the opportunity arises, regardless of location.

Ray made a motion for discussion to add Lowe's team to the RMA rotation now (area and national) as the "C" team. Lowe's team would fall in behind the "A" and "B" teams on the list. The RMA Mobilization Guide would not need to be amended at this time.

Bill would support the motion to add the team to the rotation if the restriction placed on the team within zone (Great Plains Zone), which states that they cannot be available outside the zone at PL 3-5, is removed.



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Joe stated that there are two separate issues. The first being whether RMCG wants the team to go out and maintain currency and the other issue being the rotation (and Mobilization Guide), which could be discussed during the winter.

Joe felt we need to separate the two issues. He could not make the decision of whether or not the team will be available when the zone is in PL3-5, but did state that the agency administrators would approve of them going out on assignment.

Ken asked if the agency administrators would approve of them going out of the zone at anytime, or only at PL 1 or 2.

Joe felt that the question needs to be asked of the administrators and would like to see RMCG present the argument to them; stating that the team is not a State team but is an Interagency team.

Ken felt that RMCG needs to hear from the other IC's as well, as Joe is a RMCG member and is the only IC currently involved in the discussion.

Dave restated that there is a motion on the floor and asked if anybody would like to second the motion.

Bill wanted to see the original motion amended to defer the decision of amending the rotation until the autumn and narrow the motion to the team being made available for the next assignment.

Ken asked to clarify whether or not the team, if made available, would definitely be available for the remainder of this season and if so would vote to do that and would second Bill's amendment. (Joe stated that he was comfortable that the team could commit to being available for the remainder of the season.)

Dave asked if there was a second on the original motion as stated by Ray.

Rays original motion was to add Lowe's team to the rotation now (area and national) as the "C" team. Lowe's team would fall in behind the "A" and "B" teams. The RMA Mobilization Guide would not need to be amended at this time.

Ray clarified the original motion to "Lowe's team be included in the area and national rotation during zone (Great Plains Zone) PL 1-2, but removed from the rotation during zone PL 3-5."



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Tom seconded the original motion.

Roll call vote: Four voted in favor and four opposed; the motion failed.

Jeff seconded the amended motion proposed by Bill: *to defer the decision of amending the rotation until the autumn and narrow the motion to the team being made available for the next assignment.* The team, if assigned, would then be dropped from this season's rotation.

Tom asked if there is a reason that the team could not be made available again later in the season if the need arises.

Ken agreed, and if any changes are made, would like to see the changes stay in place for the remainder of this three year rotational period (through the end of this year) with team "C" falling into the rotation and being available regardless of the PL level in the Great Plains Zone.

Joe clarified that, as both of the other Type 2 Teams have each had two assignments, what Lowe's team needs is one assignment to maintain currency. Joe's understanding was that the amended motion made by Bill was for Lowe's team to remain first up until they receive an assignment.

Roll call vote: All members present voted in favor (excepting Joe Lowe who abstained), the motion was carried.

Dave recognized that there are a lot of other ideas about how the teams (configurations, rotations, etc.) should be set up within the area and proposed that RMCG discuss these issues in the winter.

Ken encouraged RMCG to try to task out many of the operational matters regarding IMTs in this region to the Operations Committee.

Call was adjourned.

Upcoming

September 1: Announcement to fill ICs and Deputy ICs for 2009-2011

September 4: Next RMCG conference call at 0930

The Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group includes federal and state agency representatives who are responsible for the communications, coordination and implementation of interagency wildland fire management direction in the Rocky Mountain Area.